



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 9, Issue 2
April 2015

The MAAA is a group of accordion enthusiasts that welcomes players of all skill levels and accordion types, as well as interested non-players.

Join us! Open to the public.

Ciociaro Social Club
144 Bridge Street
Newton, Massachusetts

Next meeting:

April 26, 1 pm

Detailed meeting info is
available on our website:

www.MAAccordion.org



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Send news and story ideas to the MAAA newsletter editor

Catherine Coleman
catherine.coleman@gmail.com

Playing at assisted living and nursing homes can be very rewarding



by Jim Avedisian

For a number of years now, I have been playing with Chet Williamson, well known harmonica player in the central MA area doing the assisted living and nursing home circuit. Having played over the years in several bands doing the usual weddings, showers, clubs, reunions, etc., I never really felt as satisfied playing as when doing these assisted living and nursing home jobs. For many of these places, the entertainment we provide is the only pleasant diversion for the residents. While playing in a restaurant is fun, the truth is you are only background music. And while playing for things such as weddings can be rewarding also, the reward in playing for the nursing and assisted living can be so much more. Here are a couple of examples.

Recently Chet and I played and there was a man who was a country music player and singer. After a stroke he could no longer play but still able to sing. I took the time to visit him and rehearse three songs which allowed him to sing with Chet and me when we performed. For the first time in a long time he felt happy. His daughter saw us, with tears in her eyes, and told us how happy she was that her dad found some purpose in life again and thanked us greatly for allowing him to

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Upcoming MAAA meeting highlights

April 26, 1 pm

Presentation postponed: Arthur Welch's scheduled presentation at this meeting has been postponed because of illness. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to recheduling his talk.

The April meeting will include both a playalong and an open mic session. All are welcome.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May: No meeting

June 28: Sam Falcetti

July 26: Ray Caviccio

Out and about...

Thank you to Sam Falcetti of [Falcetti Music](#) for alerting us to these accordionists performing on the Roland Digital Accordion in Western Massachusetts:

Munich Haus, Chicopee

Fridays: Paul Gluck

Saturdays: Leo Murowski

www.munichhaus.com

Primavera Restaurant, Ludlow

Friday-Saturday: Helder Ganhao

www.primaverarestaurante.com

Felix Italian Restaurant, Springfield

Friday-Saturday: Paul

Grzebienowski with guitarist

www.felixfamilyristorante.com

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perform. Unfortunately, I had to blur out the face in the picture above for privacy but trust me, he is loving it, mic in hand and singing with us.

Another time, while playing at a different facility, a woman was brought in on what looked like a hospital gurney. An attendant told us she had been unresponsive for the time she had been at the facility. Someone asked us to play a polka, and for the first time she responded to a stimulus, she was moving her hand to the beat of the music. Music can be SO healing.

You will never get rich doing this, for sure, but you will bring

happiness and diversion to an otherwise mundane existence. If you take the time to talk to some of the residents, you might hear some interesting stories!

Occasionally, someone who is able likes to dance, and Carol will dance with them and they love it, and the music of their time brings back good memories.

Your playing experience doesn't matter, if you make mistakes they don't care, they just like having you play for them. Playing at these places can be both fun and rewarding. If you don't already do it, consider trying it and they are always looking for entertainers.

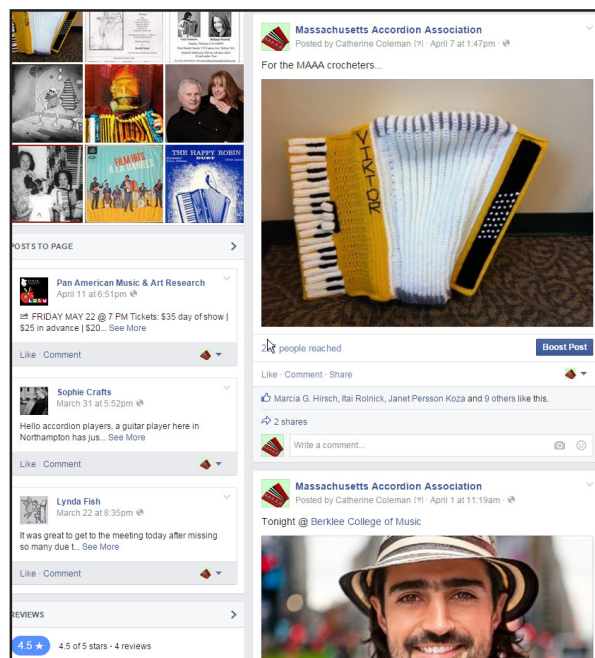


Two years ago, the MAAA Facebook page had 36 likes. This month, the page reached 236 followers! People who "like" the page can see our posts in their Facebook timelines, comment on our posts, and add their own posts to the page.

MAAA uses the page to share information about upcoming relevant performances, updates about our meetings, news from around the accordion world, and an occasional bizarre bit of trivia.

If you haven't already "liked" the page, we

hope you will, and that you will contribute and comment and connect to our 236 friends around the world.



CALENDAR

April 13, 6:30 pm

Revma

**Connolly Branch Library, 433
Centre Street, Jamaica Plain**

www.bpl.org

Traditional music from Greece's ancient mountain regions and islands, featuring Rohan Gregory (violin), Glenn Dickson (clarinet), Sandy Theodorou (vocals, accordion, laouto), John Mitaras (bouzouki), and Fabio Pirozzolo (vocals, percussion). A free event.

April 15, 7:30 pm

**Mairtin O'Connor Trio with
Meara Mears**

**Burren Backroom, 247 Elm Street,
Davis Square, Somerville**

www.burren.com

Máirtín O'Connor, recognized as one of the foremost proponents of "the box," joins fiddler Cathal Hayden and singer/guitarist Shamie O'Dowd for an evening of traditional music.

April 18, 7:30 pm

**Mari Black and Cory Pesaturo
Unitarian Universalist Church, 26
Main St., Wakefield**

www.ticketpeak.com/sro

Violinist Mari Black, world champion accordionist Cory Pesaturo, and band perform dance-inspired music from around the world.

April 18, 8 pm

**Mairtin O'Connor Trio
Blackstone River Theatre, 549
Broad Street, Cumberland, RI**

www.riverfolk.org

April 24, 7:30 pm

**La Madeleine
Dance Hall, Kittery, Maine**

www.thedancehallkittery.org



Mari Black and Cory Pesaturo

La Madeleine performs the songs of Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Georges Moustaki, Gilles Vigneault and accordion-and-fiddle-driven Celtic instrumentals.

April 24-26

**New England Folk Festival
Mansfield, MA**

www.neffa.org

There's just too much music to even begin to summarize so take a look at the site.

April 30, 7:30 pm

**Fifth Season Quartet
Multicultural Arts Center, 41
Second St., East Cambridge**

www.multiculturalartscenter.org

Plamen Karadonev (piano and accordion) and vocalist Elena Koleva present music by Legrand, Strayhorn, Tchaikovsky, Jobim, and Shorter.

May 1, 8 pm

**Slavic Soul Fest
Cuisine en Locale at Anthony's,
156 Highland Ave., Somerville**

NYC-based Slavic Soul Party is joined by local slavic-influenced bands: Somerville Symphony Orkestar, Cocek! Brass Band, and

Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band. Cuisine en Locale will be serving Slavic soul food.

May 2

**Keys! Music Challenge
Immanuel Lutheran Church, 647
North Main Street, Attleboro**
www.keyspianochallenge.com

For musicians ages 5-18.

Accordion students receive a 50% discount on their entry fees. Students can register online.

May 3, 2015, 1:30 pm

**Roland 17th Semi-Annual V
Accordion Event
1755 Boston Road, Springfield**
www.falcettimusic.com/f_accordions/accordions.html

Sam Falcetti and the team at Falcetti Music host its annual workshop and entertainment.

May 11

**Jac & Co
Pot au Feu, 44 Custom House
Street, Providence, RI**
potaufeu.businesscatalyst.com/

The French accordion/vocals duo Jacques and Corinne Pellarin perform French 'chanson' from the dance halls and street cafés of France.